
FEBRUARY 13, 1821.

Read twice, and committed to a committee of the whole House
to-morrow.

A BILL

*Giving a right of pre-emption in the purchase of public lands, to
certain settlers in that portion of the Arkansas territory ceded
to the Cherokee Indians.*

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 every person, or the legal representatives of every person,
4 who, on the twelfth day of April, eighteen hundred and four-
5 teen, had actually inhabited or cultivated a tract of land lying
6 in the territory of Arkansas, on the north side of the Arkan-
7 sas river, in that portion of country ceded by the treaty of
8 eighteen hundred and seventeen, to the Cherokee Indians.
9 shall be entitled to a preference in becoming the purchaser
10 from the United States, of one quarter section of unappropri-
11 ated and unimproved land in either of the land districts of
12 said territory, at the minimum price of the government, and
13 the fact of settlement or cultivation shall be established in
14 conformity to existing laws, before the register and receiver of
15 the district of Lawrence.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That in every case
2 where it shall appear to the satisfaction of the register and
3 receiver aforesaid, that an applicant for the right of prefer-
4 ence is entitled thereto, they shall grant him a certificate re-
5 cognizing the validity of his claim, which certificate shall au-
6 thorize the location on any of the unimproved and unappro-
7 priated lands then advertized for sale in either of the land
8 districts of the territory; the location always conforming to
9 sectional and divisional lines; and it shall be the duty of the
10 party to make a written designation of his location to the re-
11 gister, and payment to the receiver, in whose district the land
12 lies, two weeks preceding the public sale of lands for that dis-
13 trict, then next following the location: and on the perfor-
14 mance of these conditions, a final certificate shall issue by
15 the officer, and in the mode now prescribed by law: *Provided,*
16 That no person shall derive any benefit from this act, and its
17 operation shall entirely cease from and after the first day of
18 January, eighteen hundred and twenty-three.